

FORWARD, UPWARD, ONWARD  
TOGETHER—THE BAHAMAS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 1998*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas celebrated the 25th anniversary of independence. On Saturday, July 18, an Independence Luncheon will be held under the direction of Consul General Dr. Doswell C. Coakley. The Honorable Minister of Tourism, Cornelius A. Smith will serve as the guest speaker. As a long-time world traveler who respects cultures and globalism, I would like to add my congratulations and best wishes on such an auspicious occasion.

As one of the premier independent nations of the world, we, recently celebrating our independence, can certainly relate. The 275,000 people who live on the 700 islands of The Bahamas are predominantly of West African descent. Their ancestors were slaves brought to the islands to work cotton plantations until 1834, when Britain abolished slavery in all of its territories. Most white residents are descendants of the first English settlers who emigrated from Bermuda in 1647 to gain religious freedom. Some are also related to the Loyalists who fled the southern United States during the American Revolution. After the abolition of slavery, life in the islands changed drastically. The plantations were dissolved, and both blacks and whites turned to the sea or tried to farm.

Bahamians have a rich cultural legacy. Religion is an integral part of Bahamian life. Even the tiniest village has a church, sometimes two. The citizen's religious zeal and high regard for education are evident. Music is also very important. Here you can hear the elements of African rhythms, Caribbean Calypso, English folk songs and the Bahamian Goombay beat.

Its government is a bicameral parliamentary government composed of a Senate and a House of Assembly, a Prime Minister, an Attorney General, and an independent Judiciary, including a Supreme Court and a Court of Appeals. I'm sure we all recall seeing pictures of Bahamian policemen who pride themselves on their starched uniforms.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to give a bird's eye view of the people and culture of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. As the world becomes smaller in terms of travel, I hope many of our citizens will visit our good neighbors to the South.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY OF MARILYN AND  
CHARLES COX

**HON. CHRISTOPHER COX**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 1998*

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, there are a few occasions more joyous and historic in a family's life than a 50th wedding anniversary. On August 18, 1948, my parents, Marilyn Ann Miller and Charles Christopher Cox, were wed in Mahtomedi, Minnesota. They received

a papal blessing, and it was propitious: a half century later, their bonds of matrimony are stronger than ever.

Fifty years of marriage have produced five Cox children: myself, identical twins Kathy and Anita, Terry, and Molly. And the Cox children have given our parents nearly 9 grandchildren (I say nearly, because my wife Rebecca is due in just over a month with our third child). They are Nick Hammer, Sean Hedgecock, Christina Ziton, Trevina Joseph, Charles Cox, Katie Cox, Alex Ziton, and Christopher Joseph. Along with the rest of our extended family, we will all join with our parents and grandparents on this memorable occasion to celebrate their golden anniversary.

As each of us in Congress knows, leadership in all walks of life means, more than anything else, setting an example. For us, their children and grandchildren, my parents have been a marvelous example. We owe our values, our education, our caring and commitment for others, and our sense of honor, duty, patriotism, and social justice to the leadership in all of these things that they showed us. Their most fundamental lesson to us was the way they have, and continue to, lead their lives.

At the close of the 20th century, men and women in their 70's, like my parents, can expect to live much longer than those of their parents' generation. What's more important, they can expect to be productive and to enjoy life far beyond what was possible even 20 years ago. This is what social scientists now call the "second adulthood"—post-retirement years that extend for decades or more. As a result, we "children" are still counting on them to show us the way, even though their own parents' lives were necessarily very different. Well into adulthood, we're still learning, and still depending upon, our parents to help us lead our lives.

Mark Twain once remarked that he spent \$25 to research his family tree, and then he had to spend \$50 to cover it up. Not so for the Cox family. We're proud to celebrate our parents' 50th wedding anniversary on the floor of the House of Representatives, and in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. After all, our parents are a national treasure—and what better way to help them celebrate than to share the festivities with 250 million of their fellow taxpayers?

I know every one of my colleagues—particularly those from Minnesota, where our family was raised, and where my parents still live; from California, where my father was raised, and those citizens I am proud to represent; and from Virginia, Colorado, and Indiana, where the rest of the Cox grandchildren live—join me in wishing Marilyn and Charles Cox a splendid 50th wedding anniversary, and many more to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW IN-  
COME HOME ENERGY ASSIST-  
ANCE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS  
OF 1998

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 1998*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will reauthorize the

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act through the year 2001. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides heating and cooling assistance to almost 5 million low-income households each year, over 330,000 of which are in my home State of Pennsylvania.

Individuals and families receiving this vital assistance include the working poor, individuals making the transition from welfare to work, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and families with young children. In fact, nearly 70 percent of families receiving LIHEAP assistance last year survived on an annual income of less than \$8,000, spending 18.5 percent of their annual household income on energy costs.

While States, local government, and the private sector have demonstrated their willingness to develop creative and effective programs to address energy assistance needs, it has been determined that these programs alone cannot meet the significant energy needs of low income families in our nation. LIHEAP has proved that a successful relationship between government, business, gas and electric utilities, and community-based organizations can and does work.

In addition to the basic energy assistance program, this legislation also extends the authorization for emergency energy assistance, home weatherization, the leveraging incentive program, and the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Option (REACH). In order to find out more about how the REACH program is working, we ask the Comptroller General to conduct a study within the next two years on the effectiveness of this program. We also try to better define natural disasters and emergencies in the bill to speed assistance to individuals in the case of natural disasters and energy emergencies under the emergency energy assistance provisions of the Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Education and the Workforce plans to consider the LIHEAP program in the coming days. I invite Members of the House to join us in support of reauthorization of this important program.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMU-  
NITY SERVICES AUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 1998

**HON. FRANK RIGGS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 1998*

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to join with Chairman BILL GOODLING and others in the introduction of important legislation, the Community Services Authorization Act of 1998. This legislation reauthorizes the Community Service Block Grant program, and incorporates many positive changes into the program.

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to States and local communities for activities designed to fight poverty and foster self-sufficiency. CSBG provides funds to 1,134 "eligible entities"—mostly local non-profit Community Action Agencies in 96 percent of all counties. The community action network is doing a very effective job at addressing the needs of high-poverty communities throughout the nation, but this is not to say that we cannot continue to make improvements in these efforts. We can and should expect no less than excellence in this and all